



County of Los Angeles CHILD CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE



Investing in Early Educators

Stipend Program Overview

Introduction

The Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program, funded by the California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) and developed by the County of Los Angeles Child Care Planning Committee, is designed to promote the professional development and educational attainment of teachers and providers working in child development programs – centers and family child care homes – in which most of the children are subsidized by the State. The program incentivizes the completion of college coursework that contributes towards a degree in child development or a closely related field. In addition, the Stipend Program helps retain these teachers and providers in the field of early childhood.

Employment Criteria

Teachers must meet the following eligibility criteria to apply for a stipend:

1. Work in a CDE/CDD-contracted child development center or participate in a CDE/CDD-contracted Family Child Care Home Education Network, **OR**

Work in a licensed center or family child care home in which the majority (51% or more) of the children receive a child care subsidy from the CDE/CDD at the time the application is submitted; **AND**

2. Work directly teaching children as a teacher, teacher/director (those with dual roles), teacher aide/assistant, or substitute in the classroom on a consistent and continual basis at least 15 to 20 hours per week depending on program type and job title; **AND**
3. **If working in a center**, maintain employment at an eligible child development program located in Los Angeles County for at least one year during the Stipend Program cycle, which typically runs from July 1st through June 30th.

For family child care homes, have been licensed and operating for one year in Los Angeles County or been employed in an eligible family child care home located in Los Angeles County for one year during the Stipend Program cycle.

4. Hold a Child Development Permit awarded by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

Educational Requirements

Stipends are awarded based on the completion of at least three (3) semester units (4.5 quarter units) OR six (6) semester units (9 quarter units) of eligible coursework at an accredited community college, college, or university. Eligible coursework must be completed during the Stipend Program cycle and applicants must pass the class(es) with a grade of "C" or better. Copies of official transcripts from accredited educational institutions are required to verify successful completion of the coursework.

Attention Bachelor degree candidates: For teachers taking one final class required to graduate with a BA/BS degree in child development or a closely related field, you may qualify for an additional graduation stipend with the coursework stipend as long as the completed class is the equivalent of at least three (3) quarter units. The units and the degree must be earned during the Stipend Program cycle.

Eligible Coursework

Eligible coursework is unit-bearing and fulfills the requirements for a degree in child development. Extension or continuing education courses are not eligible unless the applicant has a Bachelor Degree (BA/BS) or higher.

Eligible coursework is limited to the following five categories:

1. If you are not proficient in English, you may take English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes at a community college if directed to do so by your college. This option is intended for applicants needing to improve their English language skills in order to enroll in college classes toward earning a degree in child development.
2. If you do not have a child development permit issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), you may take required child development classes, or the required general education courses (for teacher permit level or higher). If you already have a permit, you may take classes needed to upgrade or renew your permit. You may participate in three (3) cycles while working toward your permit.

Note: *If you do not have a permit, contact the CTC by visiting their Web site at www.ctc.ca.gov or contact the child development department at your community college. Click on "Credentialing", then "Child Development Permits" and follow the instructions for obtaining or upgrading your permit. Community colleges can often process permit applications more quickly than the CTC. In addition, the Child Development Training Consortium offers support for eligible persons applying for, renewing, or upgrading their permits; more information is available at www.childdevelopment.org.*

3. If you do not have an Associate Degree (AA/AS), you may take English, math or general education classes; or prerequisites to classes that are transferable for a degree in child development at a four year college. Check with an advisor at your college or university before enrolling in a class if you are not sure it is a prerequisite or transferable class.
4. If you have an AA/AS or are working towards a Bachelor Degree (BA/BS), you may take classes that are transferable and are counted as credit toward a four-year college or university degree; or classes at a four-year college or university that count towards a degree. Acceptable degrees include Early Childhood Education, Early Special Education, Child Psychology, and Child Development.
5. If you have a BA/BS or higher, you may take college or university classes that are directly related to your work with children and families in a child development program. Sample topics include: the child with special needs, diversity, dual language learners, parent relations, adult supervision, program evaluation, and advanced child development. Unit bearing extension or continuing education courses can be counted as eligible only for individuals who already hold a BA/BS or higher.

Application Process

Applying to the Stipend Program is a two-part process:

1. Application: determines that the eligibility criteria have been met. Applications with supporting documents are generally due in the fall.
2. Verification: verifies that the applicant has met the educational requirements and continues to meet the employment criteria. Verification forms with supporting documents are generally due by late winter/early spring.

Stipend Amounts

Stipend amounts vary depending on the amount of available CDE/CDD funding and the number of successful applicants. Teachers earning Associate, Bachelor or Master degrees may qualify for an additional stipend if you also graduate during the Stipend Program cycle, typically in January or June.

More Information

Instructions and applications to the Stipend Program are posted by late summer/early fall on the Office of Child Care Web site at www.childcare.lacounty.gov. Applications with instructions may also be requested by contacting the Office of Child Care, Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program at (213) 974-4674.